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## Letter dated 14 December 2007 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1757 (2007) of 30 May 2007, I write to you in connection with the agreement concerning the headquarters of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (the headquarters agreement).

Article 8 of the document annexed to Security Council resolution 1757 (2007) (annex) provides that the location of the seat of the Tribunal is subject to the conclusion of a headquarters agreement between the United Nations, the Government [of Lebanon] and the State that hosts the Tribunal. However, in accordance with paragraph 1 (b) of Security Council resolution 1757 (2007), if the Secretary-General reports that the headquarters agreement has not been concluded as envisioned under article 8 of the document annexed to the resolution, the location of the seat of the Tribunal shall be determined in consultation with the Government of Lebanon and be subject to the conclusion of a headquarters agreement between the United Nations and the State that hosts the Tribunal. Furthermore, in paragraph 3 of Security Council resolution 1757 (2007) the Security Council requests the Secretary-General, in coordination, when appropriate, with the Government of Lebanon, to undertake the steps and measures necessary to establish the Special Tribunal in a timely manner.

On 12 November 2007, the United Nations and the Government of Lebanon agreed that, given the situation at the time in Lebanon, it would be difficult to pursue a tripartite agreement to be signed and ratified by the Lebanese authorities under article 8 of the annex in a time period necessary for the Special Tribunal to be established in a timely manner, as called for in paragraph 3 of resolution 1757 (2007). The Government of Lebanon expressed its approval that the seat of the Special Tribunal be located in the Netherlands and requested the United Nations to continue to undertake all the necessary steps and measures to continue facilitating the process and finalizing a bilateral agreement.

Accordingly, pursuant to paragraph 1 (b) of Security Council resolution 1757 (2007), I wish to inform you that the headquarters agreement has not been concluded as envisioned under article 8 of the annex to the resolution, but that instead negotiations have been successfully completed and the headquarters agreement has been initialled, by representatives of the United Nations and the Netherlands.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

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